

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IT, NATO, MILI, MASS

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR MOU ON DEFENSE PROCUREMENT

1. ITALIAN COUNSELOR CALLED ON ACTING DIRECTOR RPM, JUNE 21, AND MADE FORMAL PROPOSAL TO NEGOTIATE A BILATERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON RECIPROCAL DEFENSE PROCUREMENT. ITALIAN COUNSELOR SAID GOI HAD IN MIND SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF US-UK MOU. HE ADDED THAT THE ITALIAN DEMARCHE WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE LONDON SUMMIT AND HAD ALSO BEEN PROMPTED BY THE DESIRE OF ITALIAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THE US. HE LINKED THE PROPOSAL TO THE ANDREOTTI VISIT, JULY 26-27. -

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2. WHEN ACTING DIRECTOR ASKED WHETHER ITALIANS WANTED TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE TIME ANDREOTTI ARRIVED, ITALIAN COUNSELOR SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF SOME PROGRESS COULD BE SHOWN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BY ANDREOTTI'S VISIT. HE ADDED THAT ANDREOTTI WISHED TO RAISE AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL IN WASHINGTON QUESTIONS OF STANDARDIZATION,

LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS AND MILITARY SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. ITALIAN COUNSELOR WAS INFORMED THAT SINCE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN HAD MADE A BROAD OFFER TO NEGOTIATE MOU'S WITH INDIVIDUAL NATO COUNTRIES AT THE DPC ON AWACS IN MARCH, WE WELCOMED THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL. ITALIAN COUNSELOR WAS REFERRED TO DOD/ISA TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TALKS.

4. FOR NATO: US-UK MOU CONTAINS PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THIS MEMORANDUM IS INTENDED TO FIT INTO THE BROADER CONTEXT OF NATO RATIONALIZATION/ STANDARDIZATION AND TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH ANY NATO ARRANGEMENT THAT MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY BE NEGOTIATED UNQUOTE. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, WANT TO HAVE SIMILAR PHRASING IN MOU WITH ITALY.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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